AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

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1.   (Currently Amended) In a system having at least one application, a method for executing a search from within ~~the at least one~~ an application, the method comprising the steps of:

selecting one or more search terms within a first ~~the at least one~~ application at a computer;

activating the one or more search terms within the first application;

performing a search based on the one or more search terms with a second application at the computer such that the computer remains in a context of the first application and does not display the second application to a user; and

returning search results to the ~~at least one~~ first application.

2.   (Currently Amended) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein ~~the at least one~~ first application is selected from the group of: word processor; spreadsheet, database, image processor; web browser; text recognition; email client, and operating system.

3.   (Original)   A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the step of selecting further comprises the step of automatically selecting the one or more search terms pursuant to pre-defined rules.

4.   (Original)   A method as defined in claim 1, further comprising the step of configuring the search.

5.   (Original)   A method as defined in claim 1, further comprising the step of searching according to a context of the one or more search terms.

6.   (Original)   A method as defined in claim 1, further comprising the step of storing the search results.

7.   (Currently Amended) A method as defined in claim 1, further comprising the step of presenting the search results to the user without the user having to exit the <u>first</u> ~~at least one~~ application.

8.   (Currently Amended) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the search is performed without the user having to exit the ~~at least one~~ <u>first</u> application.

9. (Currently Amended) A method as defined in claim 1, further comprising the step of the manipulating, by a user, the search results within the first application.

10. (Original) A computer readable medium having computer executable instructions for performing the steps recited in claim 1.

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11.   (Currently Amended) In a computer system connected to a network, a method for performing a search over the network, the method comprising the steps of:

selecting search data within ~~at least one~~ a first application in the computer system;

activating the search data within the first application;

performing a search on the search data in the background with a second application ~~from within the at least one application~~ such that ~~the~~ a user is not required to open ~~another~~ the second application or view a window of the second application;

returning search results generated by the second application to [[a]] the user within the ~~at least one~~ first application, wherein the user views the search results within the ~~at least one~~ first application.

12.   (Currently Amended) A method as defined in claim 11, wherein the search data comprises at least one of: text; a remote file; an image; a sound file, an MPEG file; and metadata.

13.   (Currently Amended) A method as defined in claim 11, wherein the step of activating further comprises the step of configuring the search by selecting at least one search location.

14.   (Currently Amended) A method as defined in claim 11, <u>wherein returning search results generated by the second application to the user within the first application further comprises at least one of:</u>

<u>copying at least a portion of the search results into the first application;</u>

<u>pasting at least a portion of the search results into the first application;</u>

<u>deleting at least a portion of the search results;</u>

<u>saving at least a portion of the search results; and</u>

<u>displaying the search results when a user moves a mouse arrow over the selected search data in the first application.</u>

~~wherein the step of activating further comprises the step of selecting at least one search location.~~

15.   (Original)   A computer readable medium having computer executable instructions for performing the steps recited in claim 11.

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16. (Currently Amended) In a computer system having access to one or more applications, the computer system connected to a network, a method for searching over the network, the method comprising the steps of:

within an application, previewing data that has not been selected by a user within at least one application;

selecting a portion of the previewed data as search terms without user input;

performing a search based on the portion of the previewed data without user input;

caching search results from the search, wherein the search results are readily available to a user.

17. (Original) A computer readable medium having computer executable instructions for performing the steps recited in claim 16.

18.   (New)   In a computer system that includes one or more applications that can each be activated by a user, a method for performing a search from within an application without requiring the user to open a browser application, the method comprising:

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selecting search data within a context of a first application at a computer, wherein the first application is not a browser application;

searching a network using a second application based on the selected search data, wherein the second application is operates in a background and is not displayed to the user, wherein the computer keeps a user in a context of the first application;

presenting search results to the user within the context of the first application.

19.   (New)   In a computer system that includes applications that can be activated by a user, a method for performing a search from within a non-browsing application, the method comprising:

identifying search data that has been selected in a non-browsing application, the search data including text;

activating the search data by providing the selected search data to a browsing application, wherein the browsing application performs a search on a computer network using the search data and wherein the browsing application is not displayed to a user;

receiving search results from the browsing application; and

presenting the search results in a context of the non-browsing application such that the user is not required to switch from the browsing application to the non-browsing application.